

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, October 24, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR. 1

1 This letter, improved by Blair, was published in the *Globe* and is in *Niles's Register*, LXVII. 171; also, his preliminary letter to the editor of the *Union*, of Nashville. Adam's speech calling forth this letter is in *Niles's Register*, LXVII. 105, and his reply is *ibid.*, p. 188. See also Jackson to Monroe, June 20, 1820 (in vol. III., p. 28), and Jackson to Secretary Calhoun, Dec. 21, 1820 (vol. III., p. 35), in which Jackson expressed his contentment with the boundary effected by the Florida treaty.

Hermitage, October 24, 1844.

My dear Mr. Blair, On the the 12th instant I had a return of Hemorrhage, and two days thereafter, a chill—with the lancet to correct the 0350 326 first, and calomel to check the second, I am greatly debilitated. But being aroused by John Q. Adams address to the young men of Boston on the 7th instant sent to me on the 22nd instant by my friend Genl. Robert Armstrong, I made, a concise reply thereto, as much as my feeble health and absence of my papers permitted, which I sent to the *Nashville Union*, and which will reach you in the *Union* of the 23rd, which I trust you will give a place in your *Globe* to meet the falshoods contained in his said address.

You will observe that Mr. John Q. Adams, reiterates the false statement, made by him, "years ago," —for he says, "This very boundery of the sabine in the Florida treaty, was before it was finally proposed to the spanish minister Onis, by the direction of President James Munroe, shown by me to the Hero for his opinion and advice, which was in its

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favour." All which statement I pronounce, now as I did when he first made it, a wilful and corrupt falshood. Mr. Munroe, if he had wanted my opinion why did he not ask it, as Mr. Monroe, knew at that time, that I had went on to the city of washington under the full impression, that Mr. Crawford and Adams were the two of his cabinet , who had proved 2 my arrest, and with neither Mr. Crawford or Adams had I any interviews or communication whatever. Soon after the triumphant vote of the House of Representatives, acquitting me of all improper conduct alledged in the Resolutions of Clay and Cobb, against me, I left the city of washington Having the day after the vote visited The Representative Branch by invitation and spending part of that day, listening to their debates. The next day, I think, I left the city for west point academy. This base falshood was, I thought, nailed to the counter when first made by Adams, thro the Globe and there it slept for years until the eve of the Presidential election; and until he believed I was dead, or so enfeebled by sickness that I could not reply. A kind providence has disappointed him in this, and I again declare, that adams statement that I was consulted by him on the boundery of the Florida treaty before it was made and that I agreed to the boundery proposed, the Sabine, is positively false, false, fales, his diary to the contrary notwithstanding. 3 But what honorable or just man can repose belief in his statement, after his receiving from Dr. Mayou, the copy of a letter, marked on it, confidential , and producing, and reading it to the House of Representatives to prove me guilty of duplicity, in writing the letter to Judge Fulton then acting as Governor of Arkansa, in the absence of Governor Pope, when he Adams, saw it marked confidential must have known, that this copy was purloined from me, and as an honorable man, ought at once to have returned it to me. 4 Instead of this he kept it and read it to the Representative branch of congress—was there ever such dishonorable conduct by any man practised before; The Hon'ble Wm. Fulton producing

2 Approved.

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3 Jackson's conversation with Adams, in which he indicated his acquiescence, took place on Feb. 3, 1819; Adams, Works , IV. 239. The Florida treaty was not signed till Feb. 22. See also Schouler, History of the United States , III. 97 n.

4 See vol. IV., p. 212 n., and vol. V., pp. 529, 532, 540, 559.

the original letter swearing to its date and receipt, put down Mr. Adams and disgraced him forever. but this is an act of Perfidy by a man, once elevated to the Presidency, by intrigue, bargain, and management, and now to shield himself from the charge of giving away to Spain by the treaty of 1819, the greater part of Louisiana as ceded by France to the United States by the treaty of 1803, extending to the Rio Grand del Norte, fabricates the positive falsehood, that, he, before submitting it to Onís, consulted me and I agreed to the Sabine, as the boundary, and now introduces his diary to prove it. I hope he will make known to the public what his diary says, with regard to the letter purloined from me, and handed to him by Doctor Mayou marked confidential —has he noted in his diary that this purloined letter, he knew was stolen, and by his law reading he knew, that in contemplation of law that the receiver of stolen goods was as bad as the thief, and I ask what reliance can be placed in the statement of the receiver of stolen goods, knowing them to be stolen. But the bold, daring, and unblushing falsehood, in his address, where alluding to my operations in Florida, Seminole campaign, where he says my acts in Florida were condemned by the unanimous voice of both Houses of Congress cap the climax. Who, after such a bare-faced falsehood as this, pronounced in the face of the Journals of Congress where the House of Representatives, by their vote on Clay and Cobbs resolutions by a large majority exonerated me from all censure or blame. Adams must be mad or become reckless to all truth to state such a notorious unblushing falsehood.

I have been interrupted at least ten times since I began this letter by company, and write with great pain but I am anxious to bring the address of J. Q. Adams to your view, that you may shew him in his true colours to the American people. My dear sir please correct this

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letter, and give it, over my name to the public. It may be my last, god only knows. I give you the facts, and you will correct the writing

your friend in haste

P. S. My family Joins me in kind good wishes to you and yours. Should I soon be called hence I rely on you to do my character Justice.

The inclosed letter is written under fever, debility etc. etc. but I trust it is capable of correction, that it may go to the public over my signature. To you and your judgment I resign it for correction and publication. God bless you, and yours, is my, and my families, prayers. Major A. J. Donelson left me on monday 21st instant for Texas.